

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,506 to Ukai et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,054 to Scheutze et al.

Claims 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai in view of Scheutze as applied to claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,238,106 to Rosati.

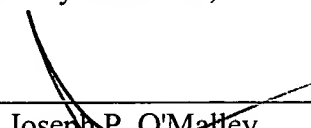
The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Scheutze U.S. Patent 6,598,054 and the present application are both assigned to the Xerox Corporation. For this reason, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)(1), a combination of Scheutze with other prior art to reject the present invention is not appropriate.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 24-0037 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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